

UPPER ANDERSONSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Here to benefit our local community

'To tackle social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage through encouraging all sections of the community to participate and contribute in the design and implementation of co-ordinated services to meet the identified needs of the community.'

2013 Winners
Aisling Awards
Pride of Place
Belfast in Bloom





CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Barney Kane

The Upper Andersonstown Community Forum is successfully to the forefront in providing much needed local services to the community through the various projects including daycare, crèche, special needs, after schools, youth, essential skills training, education, development for women, advice and welfare rights and housing services. We also have excellent I.C.T. services where the local community can avail of computer training. A wide range of support for local people is offered through advice, volunteering, setting up their own groups and developing community initiatives which promote inclusiveness.

The Upper Andersonstown Community Forum's aim is to build on the 'experience, strength, capacity and assets of local people in order to offer a high quality service through the active participation of the community to meet their identified needs.

One of the most challenging issues facing the Forum year on year is the continual problem of funding for projects. Every community organisation in West Belfast has been faced with this continual problem of securing jobs and services. To this effect we will campaign and lobby to ensure mainstream funding is delivered as of right to the local community.

Despite the ongoing problem of securing adequate funding, it is our firm belief that as part of the wider social economy within West Belfast, and as lead partner of the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership, the Forum will continue to make a positive and ongoing contribution to community, economic and social development.

This year has been very ambitious and exciting for the UACF, picking up awards at the Aislings, Pride of Place and Belfast in Bloom, proving our determination and success in developing a community infrastructure for local people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone including staff, management and volunteers and local people for their commitment and support to the Forum.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tish Holland



The Forum was established in 1995 and has among its members, volunteers and management committee many local people who have been to the fore front in promoting and securing community, social and economic development of the area.

In terms of Community, Social and Economic Regeneration the Forum has successfully on a local level firmly established services and programmes which include:-

- Provision of a comprehensive range of Community and Family Support Services
- Social Economy Daycare provision,
- Youth Services,
- Youth Training and Employment Scheme/ AEP
- Essential Skills Programme for parents and long termed unemployed,
- ICT Training, Digital Communities Programme
- Employability, JET (Job Education & Training Project) .
- Steps to Work, Training Placements,
- Community Volunteering Scheme,
- Job Assist Programme
- Support Programme for People with Disabilities
- Support programmes for older people

The UACF are the Lead and Accountable Agency for the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and through this work on a daily collaborative basis with BRO, Health Trust, NIHE, Early Years, BCC, Sure Start and Integrated Services for Children and Young People. The Forum are established as an, AQA, OCN and ECDL training centre, OCR, OCN, CCEA, accredited Essential Skills centre, Accredited Centre for Sports Leadership Awards and a recognised Microsoft Computer Academy. The Forum operates a Financial Management System based on NI audit Green Book guidance and ESF guidelines and criteria.

Current Issues

Consolidating each of the projects and streamlining for more effective outcomes

Planning Day needed for all Projects

Specific planning for Childcare (all Ireland Centre of Excellence)

More publicity/marketing

Revised code of good governance / Procurement

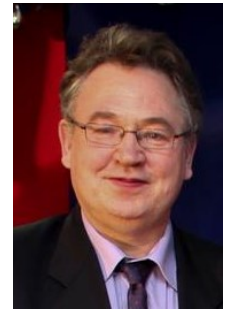
Policies and procedures

ISO 9001/ Procurement

On a personal note I would like to thank all staff, volunteers, management and local politicians and residents for their hard work, energy and commitment in achieving the ongoing regeneration of this local area. A special thanks goes to all our funders who include, BRO, Big Lottery, Belfast City Council, DHSS, ESF, DEL and other Trusts and agencies. Their commitment, expertise is to be commended and congratulated and I believe through collective team work we will expand in the near future to create a dynamic and safe environment for all local people.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Patrick Wilson



This was a particularly successful year for the forum. We won the first place in the estates category of the All Ireland Pride of Place competition. We also won the Aisling Award for community endeavour and the Belfast in Bloom award. It was a great morale booster for all those associated with the forum to receive recognition for our community development work.

The forum has established itself as a significant provider of services to the local community. We offer comprehensive childcare support, facilities for young people, training and education and employment opportunities. All of our services are part of a strategic plan to improve the opportunities available to our community and particularly the most marginalised within that community. The current economic climate is making life very hard for a significant amount of people. We are endeavouring to build a variety of opportunities for local people to improve their skills, gain employment and build up their social networks.

The Utopia project is offering a range of exciting and innovative activities building a strong social network among our senior citizens. The Healthy Hearts initiative has worked with local schools in raising awareness about healthy eating and exercise. Our youth project funded by the BIG lottery is having an impact on young people's lives and our childcare continues to serve the community both at Tullymore and NaomhUna. The AEP project is working with local schools in offering support to young people who find the school environment challenging and our JET programme is building skills for employment and offering a range of work experience placements. All of these programmes are contributing to increasing the opportunities available to all sections of our community.

Delivering these services requires significant human, material and financial resources. We need to be working constantly to meet a variety of outputs and outcomes designed to target social need. As an organisation we cannot solve some of the deep rooted social problems that have existed in our community for generations. We realise that we have to campaign continuously to effect change. We have to lobby government departments, city council and political representatives to ensure that resources are made available to continue and develop our work.

As lead partner of the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership we are working in cooperation with a number of local groups and statutory bodies to deliver the area plan. The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership is committed to delivering this plan. The DSD plan to transfer the Neighbourhood Renewal remit to Belfast City Council but it does not appear to be clear how or when this is going to be completed. I believe this has taken the momentum out of the Neighbourhood Renewal process and it is important that both the DSD and Council come up with a clear plan and time frame for doing this.

HEALTHY HEARTS CO-ORDINATOR

Janine Crawford



Healthy Hearts in the West is an initiative responding to the needs of people living in West Belfast. Looking after your heart begins at birth and continues throughout childhood and adult life. Healthy Hearts in the West addresses the risk factors that contribute to heart disease and aims to allow people to lead a full and active lifestyle. We believe that small changes can make a huge difference to heart health and we recognise the mental and emotional benefits that arise from healthier lifestyles.

Healthy Hearts Objectives...

Raise awareness about the risk factors contributing to heart disease

Raise awareness about how to achieve a healthy lifestyle

Strengthen partnerships between community, statutory, voluntary and private

sectors to improve heart health

Improve access to preventative, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Promote self-management for those with cardio-vascular disease

Create care pathways that enable delivery of integrated services for cardio-vascular disease.



During its 2nd year of funding Healthy Hearts in the West initiative provided local people with the opportunity to grow their own fruit and veg at the Glen community centre, enjoy healthy cooking lessons on a budget through our Cook it! programme and welcomed over 1000 local children to participate in the Fit kids Survey with over 300 of those children participating in the Fit kids programme in Andersonstown Leisure Centre. The Fit kids programme introduced children to healthy eating habits and a variety of sports and activities.

The Healthy Hearts initiative also celebrated their one year anniversary with its walking group which has grown in numbers from it started in June 2012.

Developing new partnerships with the Colin Glen trust enabled the initiative to work closely with 11-20year olds on their 'Lipstick and Lunges' programme for young girls and also a 'Healthy Living Programme' for young boys and girls aged 11-15yrs. Both programmes included physical activity and healthy eating workshops for participants. Other activities this year included working closely with St Pauls and Lamh Dherg GAA clubs to provide health checks and educate their young players on healthy eating, health days, monkeynastix for 5 and 6yr olds, Zumba classes, cultural dance classes for primary aged children and nursery school children.

Healthy Hearts in the West would like to thank all their partners for their commitment and hardwork to help improve the health of local people over the past year.



I.C.T. COORDINATOR

Theresa McMahon

The ICT project funded by BRO accomplished all of its goals for the 2012-2013 year, meeting and exceeding recruitment and training targets. Our top priority and most important accomplishment is the continued success in providing high quality, reliable service and ICT training support to all members of our community with particular focus on promoting and providing access to ICT and Essential Skills to our young people. Essential Skills for young people has been incorporated in the ICT project as it has been acknowledged that some of our young people have been placed at a disadvantage when it comes to sitting exams in ICT; this new addition has addressed this issue.

A range of accredited and non-accredited ICT training is offered to all ages in the community. In the past year, 400 training places have been sustained/created on the ICT project, with many individual participants availing of more than one training course.

The sustained training places break down as follows:

Accredited Courses offered:

AQA Entry Level 1,2,3 for Beginners

OCR Entry Level 3 for Beginners

ECDL Essentials accredited by the British Computer Society at Level 1 on the QCF framework

ECDL Extra accredited by the British Computer Society at Level 2 on the QCF framework

OCR Employability Skills Level 2

ECDL ITQ Level 3 on the QCF framework

Essential Skills Literacy Entry Level 1,2,3 – Level 1,2

Essential Skills Numeracy Entry Level 1,2,3 – Level 1,2

Non-Accredited Sessions offered:

Taster Sessions in ICT

Podcasting

Camtasia Studio

Internet Marketing

Online Blogs



Members of the community can avail of a supervised and tutor supported Drop-In facility using the computers to practise and develop their computer skills, send email, surf the internet, help with school or college studies, or update CVs and carry out job search research.

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Sarah Meehan

The purpose of Youth Services is to actively encourage participation of children and young people in the design, development and implementation of youth services within the Andersonstown area. Creating opportunities for personal and social development, we work with more than 200 young people a year. For many young people our services are the first meaningful experience. Many are growing up in difficult circumstances; many with special needs were there support and encourage these young people. Outdoor education challenges young people, encouraging and enabling them to reach out beyond that which is familiar and comfortable. The sense of adventure it installs and team-work it inspires, help young people come together, with new confidence and gain invaluable education for life.



Strategic Plan

- 1: Decrease young people at risk of engaging in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.
- 2: Improved self confidence, personal development. and self esteem through taking part in structured youth provision.
- 3: Increased implementable/measured/ intervention/prevention services for children and young people at risk 8-20 yrs.
- 4: Increased levels of educational attainment through accredited training.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Mark Copeland

Programmes and Service's Offered:

We offer a wide range of diversionary programmes and services to young people these include:

Youth Centre Provision three nights per week from 6-10pm

Youth Outreach Diversionary and Prevention services during evenings.

Afterschool 's services with children referred from Parents, Schools, Youth Justice, Probation and social Services.

Outreach Training Services in the local schools we are currently working with groups in CBS, St Genevieve 's, De La Salle and Malone College.

Volunteering Opportunities

Accredited training and Life Skills Training for example OCN in youth work

Recreational programme which includes Residential and outdoor education programmes,

Exchanges and Cross-Community Work

Volunteering Opportunities

At Upper Andersonstown Youth Services we believe that volunteering is a vital and integral part of a healthy society. We have depended on the contribution of volunteers over the past years.

1. Joining our board of Directors, local advisory groups or subgroups.
 2. Assisting in Youth Programme Development and Delivery to young people
 3. Assisting with learning opportunities for young people.
 4. Supporting youth work through co working and shadowing staff.
 5. Working with the Youth Network in developing strategies for young people.
 6. Speaking at conferences and meetings on behalf of young people.
- Supporting action through in kind services such as PR/ marketing.

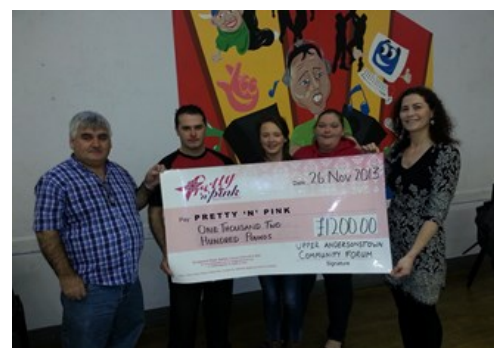


Millennium Volunteers

Millennium Volunteers is a UK-wide initiative designed to promote and recognise volunteering among young people aged 16-24 years.

1. Offering you a challenge and the opportunity to participate, learn and develop
2. Recognising that as a volunteer, you are an active citizen in your community
3. Supporting you to make a positive impact in your local community

Providing a useful Award on your CV



ESSENTIAL SKILLS CO-ORDINATOR

Alice Rooney

Upper Andersonstown Community Forum has continued successfully to carry out an Essential Skills programme. The Essential Skills department offers a literacy and numeracy programme and is at present undertaking the accreditation process for the delivery of Essential Skills ICT at level 1. The programme continues to use a “learner centred” approach. Qualifications range from Entry level 1, 2, and 3 to level 1 and 2. These qualifications are set by the CCEA (Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment).

UACF has exceeded its set target within the JET programme. Qualifications have been successfully undertaken throughout the various levels. The JET programme is an excellent progress route for the STW (Steps to Work) programme with the opportunity to avail of further study in order to achieve at the highest levels.

The Essential Skills policy will be adjusted to include the provision of Essential Skills ICT once the

necessary process has been undertaken with CCEA. CCEA continually carry out quality assurance and a recent inspection of materials took place in September which proved satisfactory and no levels were adjusted. Tutors continue to attend training with CCEA. Tutors have also undertaken CPD (Continual Professional Development) in regard to the level 5 OCN course in SEN (Special Educational Needs) /Dyslexia. This will be an excellent asset to the programme. The programme continues to follow guidelines set by DEL (Department for Employment and Learning).

UACF continues to network with various organisations in regard to student placements as in Teaching Assistant posts and Administrative posts. UACF also continue to network with the Cedar foundation in regard to progress routes for students. Networking with local schools and hostels continues as does work with the local job markets for sign posting. Recent links with An Munia Tober have proved very successful in regard to the delivery of Driving Theory to members of the Travelling community.

The provision of this programme has seen many students progress into employment and further and Higher Education along with entry onto many apprenticeship programmes. This is a welcoming sight and the people are now excellent role models within the community and a great advertisement tool for the programme. This programme also enables learning which has occurred to then pass through to children and family members. The motivation and driving force for many participants is the desire to help their children. This programme has been successful in enabling people to avail of a basic human right, the right to an education. The fact that this can be undertaken within their comfort zone within the community is crucial.



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

Theresa McMahon

The Youth Education and Training Project works at a local level with young people aged 14 – 18yrs with the objective of addressing the barriers faced by those young people in terms of social exclusion and low educational attainment. The Project aims to address marginalisation and social exclusion through provision of a high quality full and varied programme of pre accredited and accredited courses and activities which will help increase development and skills. It is innovative in that it is the only one of its kind in the immediate geographical area and extensive networking has taken place with local schools, Education & Welfare Services, families, young people and local community organizations to promote an alternative for young people who are not attending school, who have left school early with no qualifications and who wish to gain qualifications or employment .

The Youth Education and Training Project has created a secure environment to empower young people from the Upper Andersonstown area to access resources which will provide an inclusive, integrated and quality provision for children and young people at a local level. The Project has also created opportunities which enable young people to celebrate their creativity, language and culture, develop skills, respect diversity, enhance their self-esteem and play a full and equal role in society. The main outcomes of this work are the increase of confidence, self esteem, capacity building in terms of skills development and creating an enriched programme increases the employability and educational attainment of our young people.



The Youth Education & Training Programme works with young people who have disengaged from mainstream education and staff have very positive relationships with local post primary schools to ensure that information is shared and the best possible care and support is given to the young people who attend. The Programme also works with groups from local post primary schools who attend accredited courses each week which are incorporated in to the school timetable and compliment the school curriculum. Through participation in the Youth Education & Training Project, young people have gained accreditation to Level 2 in literacy and numeracy. They have also shown improved communication, team working and leadership skills.

In terms of ICT young people have demonstrated improved ICT and multimedia skills through pre-accredited and accredited courses and demonstrated willingness to use IT as a mechanism to access education, training and employment opportunities. In 2012 – 2013 241 young people have participated in the Youth Education & Training Project and registered to take part in pre accredited and accredited programmes. 23 young people have achieved qualifications in Mechanics and 12 have achieved qualifications in Hairdressing and Beauty. 142 young people have achieved accreditation at Level 1 and 64 have achieved Level 2 in subjects such as Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, An Gaisce, Youth Achievement Award and various OCN programmes. Through working in partnership with a local secondary school 30 young people are participating in a Nutrient programme to promote self awareness.

The Project has had a positive affect on the local and wider community by offering education and training to young people to enable them to ultimately enter the labour market and promoting community pride.

TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR

Annette Bennett

JET (Jobs Education & Training) Programme

This project was designed to enable long term unemployed people to avail of training which would enable them to gain sustainable employment. There was also an element incorporated to skill up local participants to gain relevant qualifications to enable them to apply for employment across a broad spectrum. I work closely with employers and statutory bodies to increase the number of employment and training opportunities within the area.

Participants are offered Advice & Guidance and are helped with job search. Linkages have been made with major construction firms who are interested in compiling a list of names of trained operatives of heavy plant machinery and also those who hold relevant CSR cards. This project has also enabled 4 men to gain qualifications which have allowed them to become self employed.

Childcare Qualifications at levels 2/3 are also available to participants and the number of beneficiaries moving into employment in this field has proved to be extremely successful. We are also contacted by local schools, crèches etc when Job Opportunities become available in their setting, and asked to inform our clients and encourage them to apply. This is a direct result of the quality of training and placement trainees.

During this year we have also been able to offer qualifications to those who have had to leave their apprenticeships due to the lack of employers willing to offer paid employment. We have developed further training in the skills areas relating to construction, i.e Bricklaying, Mechanics and Joinery. We have received copies of EV and IV reports as well as quality Assurance to ensure that this training is of the highest quality. These participants will receive continued support and close monitoring during the duration of this training.

One young lady who had exhausted every opportunity to gain funding to become a dog groomer, has now been offered employment with her placement provider as a direct result of the JET projects ability to be flexible in all areas of training. Further linkages have been made with Probation Services and NIACRO to enable young offenders to avail of training in various areas and offer additional support through Mentoring, Counselling, self-awareness training and additional support through one to one sessions and ongoing monitoring.

We are also running a Teaching Assistant Certificate at level 3 in partnership with CBS School and have a very high uptake in the number of participants wanting this training, To date, 15 people have gained sustainable employment after successful completion of this qualification. The JET programme has consistently exceeded the target numbers yearly and now works as added value to those whose circumstances who do not fit with entry criteria for FE colleges etc.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Ciaran McCoe



Neighbourhood Renewal is a government funded initiative aimed at the most 10% deprived areas in Northern Ireland and the Andersonstown area fell into this category and has been part of Neighbourhood Renewal since September 2006. Since Neighbourhood Renewal began in the Andersonstown area the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership, along with a range of residents and community groups, business sector, politicians, voluntary groups, service providers and statutory agencies have strived to improve and develop the local community through a range of actions under various themes such as Community Safety, Economic Development, Education, Environment and Health. The Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan, which was originally drawn up in 2006 has recently been updated and reviewed with new themes and priorities. Together with the various partners the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership continues to work on the Action Plan to ensure the Andersonstown Community and beyond continues to improve and develop ensuring people in the local community have access to the best possible services and opportunities to improve their quality of life. The Andersonstown area is now considered to be out of the most 10% deprived areas and this is due to the ongoing work carried out by the Neighbourhood Partnership and its partners. A key priority of the Partnership now is to ensure the area remains out of this 10% and continues to improve. This will be achieved through the Implementation of our NR Action Plan.

The Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Area is located in West Belfast with a boundary that extends from the Andersonstown barracks site, along to Kennedy Way, down to the Westlink junction and following the Westlink taking in Stockman 's and Riverdale up to the Stewartstown Road taking in Conor Rise and Rosgoil, running up the Shaws Road and down the Glen Road, taking in the Arizona / Norfolk area and linking back to the barracks site at the Glen Road / Falls Road junction. Like many areas within West Belfast, Andersonstown/Glen Road has experienced significant social and political unrest over the years, however it has more recently also seen regeneration and progression with new housing developments and commercial areas within its boundary.

Update ANP Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan

2012/13 saw the consultation process in order to update the ANP Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. This process involved working alongside the various partners within the ANP as well DSD/BRO and resulted in a real focus on a number of areas such as ANP membership, Sub Groups roles & how effective they are as well as developing real achievable objectives that will have a positive impact on the Andersonstown and Glen wards

Current ANP Make-up

The ANP is comprised from a range of different community and Government/Political members who all sit on the ANP as well as the 5 issue-based sub groups that are tasked with implementing the goals outlined in the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.

The sub groups include:

1) Community Development / Infrastructure

- ◆ Early Years, Children & Young People
- ◆ Environment

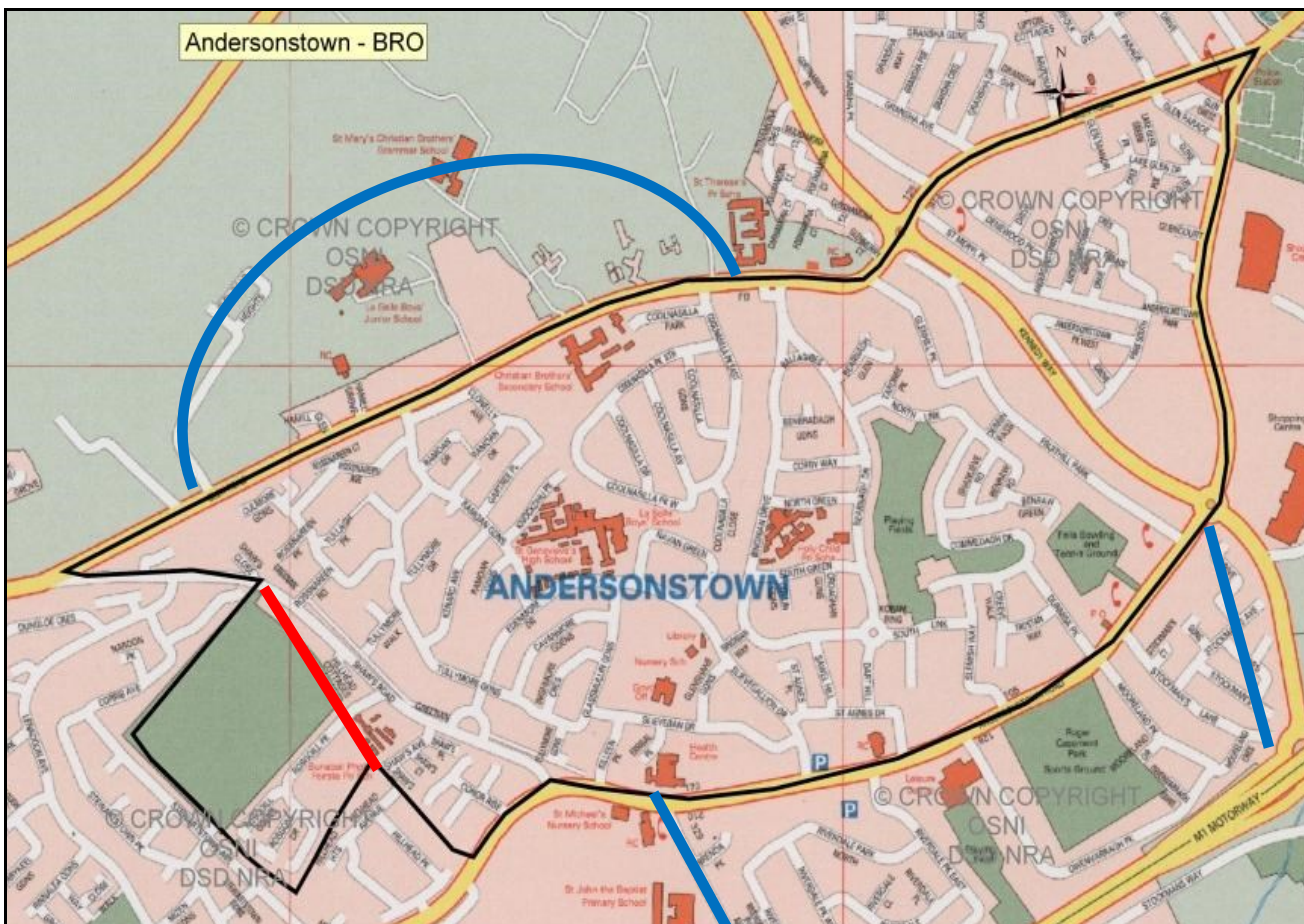
2) Crime Disorder & Community Safety (In partnership with CRJi)

3) Culture Arts & Tourism

4) Economic Development, Skills & Social Infrastructure

- ◆ Jobs, Education & Training

5) Health



Above is the ANP boundary map with the area outlined in black showing the original ANP catchment along with the additional blue lines (Riverdale/Owenvarragh/Mooreland & Glen 10 Housing Development) showing how the ANPs catchment area has expanded over the years. The red line shows the Shaws Road area and how the boundary overlaps with the Lenadoon area and the Lenadoon Neighbourhood Partnership who the ANP work very closely with.

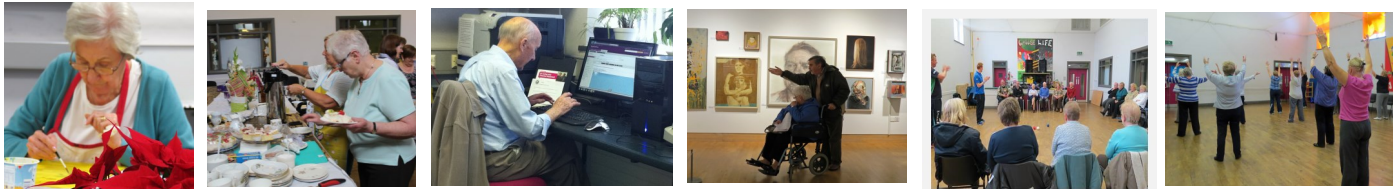
UTOPIA PROJECT MANAGER

Rose Nicholls



Background and Ambitions

The main purpose of the UTOPIA (Using Technology, Older People in Action) project is to offer support and encouragement to older people in the Greater Andersonstown community, enabling them to engage with activities at UACF that reduce their isolation, enhance their well-being and help them live healthy, independent lives and continue to be involved in social, civil and political life as valued members of their community. The project uses a range of technology and a mix of social learning activities, including multimedia and visual arts, electronic games, crafts, dance, music and indoor and outdoor physical and cultural activities to support the development of all participants and improve their quality of life.



Achievements/Performance

The core activities are centred on introducing participants to the use of technology for communication, for seeking online information on benefits, health, family history research or simply for entertainment and fun. This involves providing sessions on computers & internet for beginners, sessions on slightly more advanced internet searching, email and Skype and sessions on digital photography. All of the technology sessions to date have been very successful and well attended - meeting and exceeding the targets set. All participants taking part demonstrate new or improved skills on the computer, with many, after the sessions displaying an advanced use of email, internet searching and communicating through Skype.

Project activities also include a variety of physical indoor and outdoor activities designed to improve mental and physical health and to provide opportunities to socialise with peers and others in the community. Activities throughout the year include:

- Chair-based Pilates, Boccia and Curling, designed to be fully inclusive for those participants with limited mobility
- Tai Chi
- Art and Craft classes
- Gardening and Walking Club
- Conversational Irish Classes

Opportunities for socialising were also provided by:

Afternoon Teas with interactive entertainment, theatre trips, outings and bus trips to places of interest, chosen by a volunteer team made up of project participants. This team has taken on responsibility for organising and planning various activities.

Verbal and written participant feedback demonstrates not only an obvious increase in confidence in achieving new skills but also a sense of pride in showing these skills to family and others. Most participants also gave verbal and written feedback on their increased feeling of pleasure in being able to communicate with family who are living away and also their increased feeling of usefulness, in being able to use technology to find information for themselves.

There has also been an improvement in their physical and mental health and their sense of wellbeing as a result of taking part in the project.



CHILDCARE SERVICES MANAGER

Christine Collins

Childcare services provided by the Upper Andersonstown Community Forum are based within 2 sites; Tullymore Community Centre and Naomh Una Childcare Centre consisting of, 2 daycare facilities, programme for two year olds, Afterschool provision and summer daycare.

Our facilities are inclusive of all children, staff work in accordance with the individual needs of each child within an overall structured, multi-faceted, multi-cultural programme. It is our ethos to promote early intervention, provide support systems for families and enable children to strengthen their ability to learn, make decisions and become well-adjusted throughout their growing years. We are a social enterprise that was set up for the benefit of the local community. The project enables families to access high quality childcare and after-school places at affordable and competitive prices.

The children ' services have continued to provide a high quality provision promoting the value of education/play for 115 children including children with differing disabilities and children who are on the 'at risk' register. The money raised by the project has been invested back into the community to improve the service, offer respite care, create employment and deliver quality training and support 140 families.



OUR VERY CLEVER CHILDREN!!



OUR GOALS

To achieve 'All Ireland Centre of Excellence' accreditation

Accreditation for our high quality provision which will be recognised throughout Ireland.

To establish and continue to set **high standards** of quality care

Support our childcare facility and staff in maintaining and improving our excellent service.

A healthy and motivated work force.

To achieve a successful Social Economy Project

To secure and develop employment opportunities within the area

To conform to standards, regulations and legislations stipulated by Social Services, Early Years, Playboard and funders.

To provide a service that meets the needs of the community.



ACTIVITIES

Each project has provided a wide range of spontaneous and planned activities that are appropriate to the age, physical and emotional development of the children.

3 Children from our after school project were involved in 'The young people's research team'. The children were supported by Playboard to become young researchers and represent other young children within their areas. They have learnt about the UN Convention on the Rights of The Child and in particular the right to play. They developed research skills and carried out their own research. They then presented their findings to the Junior Ministers and the Children's Commissioner in the Ramada Hotel.



TRAINING

In our early years setting it is our team of 24 staff who has the greatest influence on the smooth running of the childcare service and its ability to fulfil its vision and mission. The quality of the welfare, teaching and learning and family support provided by services is dependent upon the qualifications, skills, experience and attitudes of all the individuals who make up the childcare team.

Training courses our staff have undertaken within the last year are: Understanding Emotional attachment and Brain development, Playwork level 2, childcare level 2 & 3, Play and holistic development, CCLD level 5, Dealing with Dyslexia, Fire safety, Understanding my role in a case conference, Training on transitions, Home visit training, First Aid, Health and safety, Managing children behaviour, planning and observations, designated officer training, Elkan speech and language.

INSPECTIONS

The minimum standards and inspection process has been developed to provide higher standards and assurance of a consistent level of quality in childcare services. Health and Social care trusts are responsible for registering and inspecting childcare services against the requirements laid down in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. We have received two inspections under the new process and have achieved an excellent report stating that the services provided are above the minimum standards expected.

FUNDRAISING

We continue to receive funding from DHSSPS. We have an SLA with social services to support families who are at risk. We have an SLA with Outerwest Surestart to manage the programme for two year olds. Both service level agreements enable us to continue to support children and families within the local community.

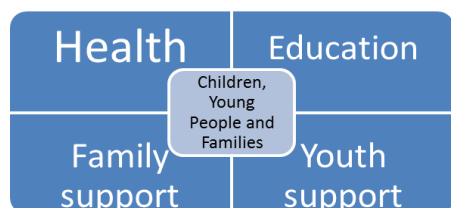
Our annual talent night and fund day raised a grand total of £1500 to support the Children's Hospice. There was a lot of voluntary donations and support from staff and local businesses.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, parents and funders for their continued support.

Upper Falls Integrated Services for Children & Young People (ISCYP) is an integrated delivery model which aims to improve the life chances for our most vulnerable children, young people and families through integrated/multiagency partnership working between community, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations. The uniqueness of ISCYP is that it adapts a whole families approach and delivers a holistic, wrap around service which supports both children and families.

Upper Falls Integrated Services for Children & Young People (ISCYP) works under the following 4 themes:



Family Support

Upper Falls ISCYP Family Support Team have worked to help and support families. In the current difficult economic climate additional support has been provided to deal with budgeting, debt management and benefit entitlement advice. 1-1 and home visit outreach services continue to be in demand and increased numbers of parents are attending drop in services.

Education Ready

This year the Education Ready team have worked with children and young people who have been referred from local community organisations and primary and post primary schools. The ER team have also helped to support parents of children with AEN and work closely with the SENCOs in local schools. Employability programmes have also featured greatly, with careers workshops, visits to FE and RTOs, delivery of accredited programmes and 1-1 support for young people who are trying to access the labour market..

Health & Wellbeing

The Youth Counselling Team have delivered hours of youth specific counselling this year and the high demand for these services continues to increase as this is the only youth specific service in the local area. Health programmes are delivered on a 1-1 basis and with the family unit. UF ISCYP are also greatly involved in the Healthy Hearts in the West, Upper Falls Healthy Choices Hub, working with local Primary Schools, families and community organisations.

Youth Services

The Upper Falls Youth Team have worked with children and young people to deliver programmes and services which are youth led and based on need identified by young people involved. These include 1-1 support both in the home and in local community settings and schools as well as group based pre-accredited and accredited programmes to increase personal development and self-confidence.



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